



STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Draft proposal by Lüc da Schir



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Note. The following body of standing rules is mostly a proposal unless noted otherwise; rules 1 and 2 have been adopted by the whole Senate, rules 3 and 4 have been voted on by the Rules Committee. All other rule proposals have not been introduced yet and are subject to change.

I have annotated as a footnote all floor or committee actions on the proposals.

Senator Lüc da Schir (BE) – 27 September 2018, last revised 4 December 2018

Rule 1 | Terms¹

1. Each new term of the Senate shall commence upon the publication by the Chancery and/or the respective provincial conducting officers of final results for all of the seats up for elections, or the beginning of a First Clark, whichever comes first.
2. Senators of the previous Senate who did not seek or lost reelection shall remain into office until the beginning of the next term.

Rule 2 | Lord President (Mençei)²

1. At the beginning of each new term, and whenever the position is vacant, the Senate shall choose a Lord President (Mençei) from among its members to perform the duties of the Chair.
2. Pending the election of a Mençei, the Dean of the Senate shall perform the duties of the Chair as Acting Mençei. Should the Dean of the Senate be absent or unwilling, seniority will be followed to select a replacement.
3. The Acting Mençei shall allow for nominations to be lodged for a period of at least a week from the beginning of a term. Should a Senator receive nominations from a majority of Senators, the nomination period shall end and the Senator be considered duly elected; otherwise, a ballot shall be held using Instant Runoff Voting. Seniority shall resolve any ties that may occur during any stage of elimination.
4. The Mençei shall have the right to name a Senator to perform the duties of the Chair as Deputy Mençei, should he or she be absent for a protracted period of time, and to name a Senator to represent him in any particular function he or she may hold by right of law.
5. Should the Mençei be absent without having named a replacement, the Senate shall be empowered to select a Senator to perform the duties of the Chair as Deputy Mençei, until such a time as the Mençei returns to the floor.

Rule 3 | Questions of Eligibility³

1. Questions over the eligibility of members of the Senate shall always be in order; and the Mençei, either of his or her own accord or acting on a petition from another Senator or the Secretary of State, shall rule on any issue of eligibility of a member of the Senate, a Senator-elect or a Senator-designate, in accordance to the law. Such a ruling can be overturned by a majority of the Senate.
2. Should a Senator be ruled ineligible to hold his or her seat, he or she shall be barred from voting on any matter laid before the Senate, and his or her attendance not counted for the purpose of ascertaining the presence of a quorum, until such time as a majority of the Senate rules that the issue of eligibility is resolved.

¹ Introduced Sep 27th; passed committee consideration Oct 2nd (2-0); adopted by the Senate Nov 22nd (4-0).

² Introduced Oct 5th; amended Oct 18th; passed committee consideration Oct 29th (2-0) ; adopted by the Senate Nov 22nd (4-0).

³ Introduced Nov 11th; passed committee consideration Nov 30th (3-0).

3. Should a Senator-elect or a Senator-designate be ruled ineligible to assume his or her seat, he or she shall not be seated and the seat remain vacant, until such time as a majority of the Senate rules that the issue of eligibility is resolved.

Rule 4 | Seniority¹

1. For the purpose of establishing an order of precedence, Senators shall be ranked according to tenure. Tenure shall be defined as the length of the unbroken service of a sitting Senator. The most senior Senator shall be termed the Dean of the Senate.

2. Ties in tenure between Senators shall be broken through the following tiebreakers: 1) total number of Clarks served in the Senate; 2) total number of Clarks served in the Cosa; 3) number of eligible voters of the home province as of the most recent general election; 4) chronological age.

3. For the purpose of calculating tenure, elected members shall be counted as taking office in the first day of the term following the election, and appointed members shall be counted as taking office in the day of their nomination to the seat. Temporary vacancies prescribed by law, or any other suspension imposed by these Rules, shall not be accounted as a break of service in calculations of tenure.

4. Seniority status shall not infringe upon a Senator's right to speak or be heard, or the fundamental equal right of Senators to exercise their duties, and shall be only used to select between Senators whenever mentioned in these Standing Rules.

Rule 5 | Quorum

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Senators duly chosen and seated, and not currently ruled ineligible as per Rule 3.

2. For any vote or ballot to be valid, a quorum has to be present; votes on items on the Clark shall not be affected by the presence of a quorum.

Rule 6 | Sessions and Recess

1. The Senate shall commence its business on the first day of each term.

2. The Mengei shall be empowered to set the times at which the Senate shall be in session and in recess; and without any communication being made, the Senate shall by default be in recess during the following periods, and in session anywhere else:

- (a) Between the publication of results for a Clark and the opening of the next Call for Bills for the current term;
- (b) Whenever the whole Ziu is in recess or prorogued, until the opening of the next Call for Bills for the current term;
- (c) Between the dissolution of the Cosa and the start of the next term.

3. During periods of recess the Senate shall only consider urgent motions or finish working on any open proceedings.

¹ Introduced Nov 11th; passed committee consideration Nov 30th (3-0).

Rule 7 | Guests

1. Other than the sitting Senators, no person shall be admitted to the proceedings of the Senate, except by direct invitation of the Menġei or by exemption as follows.
2. The Seneschal and other Cabinet officials shall always be permitted to address the Senate in response to a question (Terpelaziun) posed by a Senator, or whenever they shall deem to address the Senate regarding the current state of the Kingdom.
3. The Secretary of State shall always be permitted to address the Senate on matters of administration, particularly pertaining to any change in composition of the Senate or regarding the monthly business.

Rule 8 | Motions and Debate

1. Any Senator shall be empowered to put forward a motion for debate at any time the Senate is in session, or to second an existing motion.
2. Motions shall fall in one of two categories:
 - (a) Ordinary motions, including the consideration of amendments to the rules of the Senate, overrules of Menġei decisions and other matters intended for separate consideration from the normal monthly business;
 - (b) Resolutions of the Senate, including matters such as the election of a Chancellor of the Royal Talossan Bar, the conferment of a Senatorial Medal of Honor, the scheduling of a Living Senate, motions of censure and impeachment, and other matters intended for consideration alongside the normal monthly business.
3. The Menġei shall have the additional right of designing any motion as urgent, and commence voting without debate as if the motion was an ordinary motion.
4. Debate on any motion shall last no less than two days and no more than a week.
5. At any time during debate, any Senator shall be empowered to ask for objections to impose cloture; if in three days no objection is received, debate shall end.
6. Upon the end of debate, the Menġei shall put the question to a vote; if the Menġei hasn't done so in two days from the end of debate, the proponent shall be empowered to put the question to a vote him- or herself.

Rule 9 | Voting

1. Voting on all matters before the Senate shall be conducted in a public fashion.
2. Should a motion be seconded by a majority of the Senate during debate, the motion is adopted immediately upon the end of debate.
3. Any motion is adopted by simple majority, pending the presence of a quorum.
4. Voting on ordinary and urgent motions shall last no less than a week, or until a majority of the Senate has voted for the same outcome.
5. Voting on full motions shall begin and end along with the first Clark subsequent to the end of debate.

Rule 10 | Meeting

1. The Senate's ceremonial meeting place is Greene Hall in Abbavilla, Atatürk. Daily business shall be conducted on a designated online meeting place.
2. Pursuant to a motion adopted by at least three-fourths of Senators, the Mençei shall schedule a live session of the Senate, termed "Living Senate", to be conducted either in person or via text, audio or video chat.
3. A Living Senate shall be arranged in such a way that allows a quorum of Senators to be physically present. Absent Senators can publicly designate a present Senator to cast votes on their behalf, with the proviso that:
 - (a) A Senator can not be designated by more than one colleague;
 - (b) Designations do not count towards the presence of a quorum.
4. During a Living Senate, a Senator shall act as Secretary of the Senate, and shall compile and make available to the public any and all proceedings from a Living Senate.
5. The order of business for a Living Senate shall be established by the Mençei in advance of time and published for review.
6. The choice of a presiding officer in case of absence of the Mençei, and the order of speakers during the course of debates that may arise shall be determined by seniority.
7. During a Living Senate, any provision for voting and debating deadlines contained in this body of Standing Rules is waived. The Senate may adopt by majority vote any number of superseding rules as necessary.
8. Should voting on the current Clark take place during a Living Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit to the Chancery the results of the votes to be entered in the public records; members shall not be barred from voting in advance or changing their vote after the end of the Living Cosa, through other media such as Wittenberg or the Database.